Secta. II-27—40,000—29-10-46.

Food (1948) Department.

MS SERIES.

G.O. No. 269.

Dated 24-3-48.

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[Despatch Abstract.]

G.S. - Food shortage - Cultivation of sweept potatoes - encouragement - subsidy to ryots - Payment - orders - Passed.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS
Abstract.

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Civil Supplies - Food Shortage - Cultivation of sweet potatoes - Encouragement - Subsidy to ryots - Payment - Orders passed.

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G.O.Ms.No.269, Food Department dated 24th March 1948.

ORDER:-

Owing to the present difficult food situation in the Province, it is essential that steps should be taken to encourage the immediate cultivation throughout the Province, of sweet potatoes which can be harvested and made available for consumption in the months of July and August this year. The Government have carefully considered the steps to be taken for encouraging such cultivation and have decided to give a subsidy to ryots in order to induce them to grow sweet potatoes on their lands during the months of April and May'48. They accordingly direct that a bonus at the rate of Rs.15/- per acre be paid to all ryots who commence cultivation of sweet potatoes during these months. They also direct that the bonus should not be paid until the crop is established and a harvest is fairly certain. The Board of Revenue(Land Revenue) and the Director of Agriculture are requested to give as wide publicity as possible to this concession, The Director of Agriculture is requested to give publicity to the grant of this concession in the Grow More Food journals also and to make all possible arrangements to supply vine cuttings to ryots.

2. The Government direct that the work of inspection, assessment, etc., in connection with the bonus scheme referred to in para 1 above should be attended to by the regular staff of the Revenue Department. The Board of Revenue (Land Revenue) in consultation with the Board of Revenue (Civil Supplies) is requested to issue the necessary detailed instructions in this regard at once to all concerned indicating clearly the procedure to be adopted for the maintenance of accounts to facilitate the scrutiny of claims later, for the inspection of the crops, for the submission of claims and their scrutiny, for the payment of bonus, etc., and to submit a copy of the instructions to the Government in the Revenue and Food Departments for their information. A copy of the instructions should also be communicated to the Accountant-General, Madras for his information

3. The Board of Revenue (Land Revenue) is also requested to offer its recommendation at once as to the head of account to which the expenditure incurred by the payment of bonus in question, should be debited. The expenditure on the scheme will be incurred only during the year 1948-49. The necessary provision of funds in due course.

4. The Board of Revenue (Land Revenue) is requested to submit a report to the Government in the Food Department not later than 1-8-1948 as to

(a) the approximate area brought under cultivation with sweet potatoes in the Province during the months of April and May 1948;

(b) the probable yield from this area of sweet potatoes grown thereon; and

(c) the total amount that will have to be paid out by way of bonus.

(By Order of His Excellency the Governor)

M.A.Kuttalalingam Pillai,
Secy.to Government.

To
The Board of Revenue (Land Revenue).
do. (Civil Supplies).
The Director of Agriculture.
" Accountant-General through Finance.
Copy to the Revenue, Development & Finance Departments.
" " Principal Private Secretary to Hon'ble the Premier

p.t.o

Copy to the Secretary to the Government of India,
Ministry of Food, New Delhi.
do. " Agriculture, New Delhi.
" " The Regional Food Commissioner, Madras Region.
" " All Collectors.
Spare copies 14.
Copy to Public(I.& P.) Department.
forwarded/By Order Sd. x x /Superintendent.

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS
Food Department.
1540-H2/48.

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From
Sri Rao Bahadur M.A. Kuttalalingam Pillai,B.A.,
Secretary to the Government of Madras.

To
The Secretary to the Government of India,
Ministry of Agriculture, New Delhi.

Sir, Date1, Fort St. George,the 24th March 1948.

Sub: Civil Supplies, - Food Shortage - Cultivation of Sweet potatoes - Encouragement - Subsidy to Ryots - Payment.

Ref: i) Letter from the Joint Secretary,Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India,No.7-39/47-SV dt.11/15-12-47.
ii) D.O.& from Mr.B.Basu,CIE.,OBE.,ICS., Joint Secretary to Government of India,Ministry of Agriculture No.140-GMF-48 dated 15-1-48 addressed to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Development Department.

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I am directed to invite a reference to the letters cited aboveand to state that this Government consider that the payment to the ryots of a bonus at ao many rupees per acre would be the best method of encouraging the immediate cultivation of sweet potatoes in this Province. After a careful consideration of several methods of subsidy, this Government have finally decided that the most satisfactory method would be to give a subsidy on an acreage basis at the rate of Rs.15/- per acre to all ryots who commence the cultivation of a sweet potato crop during April and May 1948. The supplementary food that may be produced as a result of this inducement will be very useful during the difficult months of July and August 1948.

The subsidy will however not be paid or even if paid, will not be paid in full until the crop is established and a harvest is fairly certain.

It is now possible to give only a very rough estimate of the cost of the concession. It has been calculated that about 40,000 acres will be cultivated with this crop as a result of the concession during the next month. The cost of the subsidy will thus be approximately Rs.6,00,000/- Rupees six lakhs only. In view of the considerable cost involved and the special conditions prevailing in this Province this year, I am directed to request thatH the Government of India may kindly agree to bear one half of the net cost that this Government will incur by the payment of the subsidy. It is further requested that the consent of the Government of India to bear half the cost of the subsidy may kindly be intimated to this Government by telegram.

Your obedient servant,
M.A.Kuttalalingam Pillai,
Secy.to Government.

Copy to the Secretary to Government of India,
Ministry of Food, New Delhi.
do. the Regional Food Commissioner,Madras Region.
do. the Secretary to Government, Development Department.

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p.t.o

SPECIAL. SUMMARISING NOTE FOR CIRCULATION.

Owing to the failure of the north-east monsoon in 1947, the food situation in the province has deteriorated. With a view to tide over the food crisis in the coming months, it is imperative to step up internal production of food in the Province as quickly as possible. As sweet potatom is mostly an irrigated crop under wills, it can be raised in summer months when the tanks and channels will be empty especially as it is not season-bound. Any quantity of supplementary food thus produced, though not quite large in quantity, is an addition to the food resources of the Province and should be welcomed to that extent. The Government of India are also keen on producing food stuffs other than wheat and other cereals and have stressed the importance of cultivating sweet potato in view of its high calorific value which is considered to be nearly euqal to that of rice or wheat. Moreover, it is a hundred-day crop maturing in less than four months and yields 200 maunds per acre. It is capable of giving 2½ times the food value per acre compared to that given by an acre of crop of paddy, ragi or other millets. Nutrition experts recommend the increased cultivation of this crop. The stem and leaves of sweet potato make an excellent cattle fodder. It has therefore been decided that the cultivation of sweet potato should be encouraged and that the grant of a bonus of Rs.15/- per acre for its cultivation during the months of April and May'49 is the best means of achieving this.

2. The normal extent of sweet potatoes grown in this Province is about 28,500 acres. With the special encouragement in the shape of bonus the total extent under sweet potatoes is expected to come upto 40,000 acres. The extra yield arising out of the increased acreage will be consumed without much difficulty especially because of the acute shortage of foodgrains caused by the failure of the north east monsoon.

3. The difficult period in the food situation will be from May to September 1948. It is therefore essential that as much area as possible is cultivated with sweet potato immediately so that it may become available for consumption in the least possible time. As the scheme is extremely urgent the Government have issued orders sanctioning the payment of a bonus at the rate of Rs.15/- per acre to all ryots who commence cultivation of sweet potatoes during the months of April and May 1948 which can be harvested and made available for consumption in the months of July and August this year. The bonus will be paid only in cases in which the crop is established and a harvest is fairly certain.

It is estimated that 40,000 acres will be cultivated with the crop as a result of the concession and the cost of the subsidy will be approximately Rs.6,00,000/-. The Government of India have been addressed to approve the scheme and to sanction the usual G.M.F. grant equal to half the cost of the Scheme. The net cost to be borne by this Government is therefore estimated to be Rs.3,00,00/- only.

The expenditure involved in the Scheme is a "New Service", However, in view of the immediate necessity to put the scheme into effect, the proposal could not be referred to the Standing Finance Committee for approval before issue of orders and orders in the matter were issued with the approval of H.M.(Food), H.M.(Agri), H.M.(Fin.) and H.Pr.

Sd. x x
28-3-48.

Sd. xx x/28-3-48

p.t.o

Circulated to H.M.(P.W.), H.M.(P.H.), H.M.(Edn.), H.M.(Home) H.M.(L.A.), H.M.(Industries), H.M.(L.R.), H.M.(R.D.), H.M.(Prohibition).

Copy to the Chief Secretary to Government.
"" Finance Department.

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No.F.7-9/48-SV.
Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture.
New Delhi, the 28th April 1948.

From
S.K.Ghose Esquire, M.A.,
Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture,
Government of India.

To
The Secretary to the Govt. of Madras., Food Department.

Grow More Food Campaign in Madras -- cultivation of sweet potatoes.

Sir,

With reference to your letter No.1540-H2/48, dt. the 24th March 1948, I am directed to say that the Government of India are pleased to approve in principle the Provincial Government's proposal for giving subsidy at the rate of Rs.15/- per acre to the ryots who undertake the cultivation of sweet potatoes during April and May 1948. Necessary grant will be sanctioned on receipt and scrutiny of the details called for by the Provincial Government from their Board of Revenue in para 4 of their G.O.Ms.No.269, dated 24-3-48.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
Sd. S.K.Ghose,
Asst.Secretary.

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Food(H).Deptt.

A.S.

Subd. for persual. May be added to and dealt with in the main file. (C.No.1540-H2/48) which has been sent to Dev/Rev/Fin. separately on 3-5-48.

Secy. may see meanwhile.

Sd. x x/4-5-48.

Seen.
Sd. x x /5-7-48.
Secy.

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/true copy/

R. Thiagarajan 23.12
Office Assistant,
Madras Record Office.

PSR. 7-12-53.

8.12 8-12